

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 06147 01 OF 02 151259Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
INRE-00 USIE-00 DHA-02 IO-13 AID-05 IGA-02 OMB-01
TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07
/092 W

-----151317Z 076519 /41

O P 151200Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
GK RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2284
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY
AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY
AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY
CINCPAC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 6147

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PK
SUBJECT: POLITICAL SITUATION: NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE

REF: ISLAMABAD 6108

1. FOLLOWING THE EIGHTH ROUND OF GOVERNMENT/OPPOSITION
NEGOTIATIONS ON JUNE 14, BOTH SIDES ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY WHAT
HAS BEEN KNOWN PRIVATELY-THAT THEY AGREE NEW ELECTIONS
WILL BE HELD. OTHER THAN THIS PUBLIC CONFIRMATION OF A
FORMERLY ESTABLISHED FACT, AND AGREEMENT THAT THERE WILL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ISLAMA 06147 01 OF 02 151259Z

NOT BE AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT, THERE WERE FEW INDICATORS
OF MOVEMENT IN THE TALKS. THE GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATING TEAM
WAS PUBLICLY MORE UPBEAT AND OPTIMISTIC THAN THE PNA,
AND BOTH SIDES SAID THE JUNE 15 SESSION WOULD PROBABLY BE
THE LAST.

2. ACCORDING TO A FRONT PAGE STORY IN THE PAKISTAN TIMES

BY H.K. BURKI ON JUNE 15 BHUTTO PROPOSED HOLDING ELECTIONS IN NOVEMBER AND MADE CERTAIN OFFERS REGARDING MACHINERY REQUIRED TO ENSURE THAT THEY WILL BE FREE AND FAIR. SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER THE TALKS, GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN MAULANA KAUSAR NIAZI NOTED THAT IT WAS THE PM'S PROPOSAL THAT GENERAL ELECTIONS WOULD BE HELD AFTER RAMAZAN (MID-SEPTEMBER) OR, IN ANY CASE, BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. ONCE A PACKAGE DEAL IS AGREED UPON, NIAZI SAID, THE RELEASE OF PRISONERS SHOULD PRESENT NO PROBLEM. HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT THOSE GUILTY OF ARSON, LOOTING, AND KILLING WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED SEPARATELY. BHUTTO, ASKED BY THE PRESS HOW THE TALKS WERE GOING, ONLY SAID THERE WOULD BE ANOTHER MEETING THE NEXT DAY. PNA SPOKESMAN PROFESSOR GHAFOR TOLD REPORTERS THE JUNE 15 NEGOTIATING SESSION WOULD BE THE LAST, BUT DID NOT SPECULATE ON THE OUTCOME.

3. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH A REPORTER FROM THE INDEPENDENT URDU DAILY NAWA-I-WAQT, PNA PRESIDENT MUFTI MAHMUD TOLD A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT AND MORE PESSIMISTIC STORY THAN THE GOVERNMENT SIDE. ACCORDING TO MUFTI, THE PNA HAS WITHDRAWN ITS PROPOSAL THAT AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT BE FORMED, BUT WANTS ELECTIONS HELD BEFORE AUGUST 14. THE GOVERNMENT, HE CLAIMED, IS GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT NEW AGREEMENTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN REACHED, BUT THIS IS NOT THE CASE. NEGOTIATIONS ONLY BEGAN, HE EMPHASIZED, AFTER BHUTTO AGREED TO HOLD ELECTIONS IN THE FIRST PLACE. LIKE GHAFOR, MUFTI STATED THAT TOMORROW (JUNE 15) WOULD BE THE LAST DAY OF TALKS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ISLAMA 06147 01 OF 02 151259Z

4. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, SAUDI AMBASSADOR RIYADH AL KHATIB MET JUNE 14 WITH BHUTTO AND FOREIGN MINISTER AZIZ AHMED TO DISCUSS THE NEGOTIATIONS. THE AMBASSADOR ALSO CALLED ON BHUTTO THE NIGHT BEFORE AND EARLIER HAD FURTHER TALKS WITH MUFTI MAHMUD AND OTHER PNA LEADERS. DAWN REPORTED ON JUNE 15 THAT THE EFFORTS OF THE SAUDI ENVOY ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE GONE A LONG WAY TOWARD PAVING THE WAY FOR RECONCILIATION BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES.

5. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, OPPOSITION JAMAAT-I-ISLAMI PARTY FOUNDER AND SPIRITUAL GUIDE MAULANA MAUDOODI CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED A BANK DRAFT FROM KUWIAT FOR APPROXIMATELY \$100,000 IN RUPEES (REFTEL). THE PAKISTAN TIMES, WHICH CARRIED THE STORY ON JUNE 14, PRINTED MAUDOODI'S STATEMENT ON THE BACKPAGE THE NEXT DAY. ACCORDING TO MAUDOODI, HE RECEIVED THE MONEY FROM KUWAIT'S AUQAF (RELIGIOUS ENDOWMENTS) MINISTRY TO COMPLETE A MOSQUE

AND A RELIGIOUS SCHOOL IN LAHORE AND HAD A LETTER FROM THE AUQAF MINISTER TO PROVE IT. PPP OFFICIAL ORGAN MUSAWAT, WHICH FRONT PAGED A PICTURE OF THE DRAFT ON JUNE 14, CARRIED AN EDITORIAL THE FOLLOWING DAY FURTHER ACCUSING THE JAMAATI-I-ISLAMAI OF CONSPIRING AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT. THUS FAR, HOWEVER, MAUDOODI APPEARS TO HAVE SPIKED EFFECTIVELY THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRESS' CRUDE ATTEMPT TO IMPLICATE HIM IN THE FOREIGN "DOLLAR" CONSPIRACY.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 06147 02 OF 02 151302Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
INRE-00 USIE-00 DHA-02 IO-13 AID-05 IGA-02 OMB-01
TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07
/092 W

-----151317Z 076599 /41

O P 151200Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2285
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY
AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY
AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 6147

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

6. COMMENT: HAVING STRUGGLED, AND APPARENTLY FAILED, TO DEVELOP A SATISFACTORY FORMULA FOR AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT, THE TWO SIDES PRESENTLY SEEM TO BE CONCENTRATING ON HOW THE ELECTION MACHINERY CAN BE MADE "FOOLPROOF" IF BHUTTO REMAINS PRIMA MINISTER. AS A RESULT, THE PNA IS REPORTEDLY DEMANDING THE SUSPENSION OF THE PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLIES AND THE REAPPOINTMENT OF GOVERNORS BY MUTUAL CONSENT, ASSOCIATION OF THE ARMY AND JUDICIARY WITH THE POLLING PROCESS AND GREATER POWERS FOR THE ELECTION COMMISSION.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT REVEALED WHAT CONCESSIONS IT IS PREPARED TO MAKE IN THIS REGARD. TIMING IS ALSO IMPORTANT FOR THE OPPOSITION. NOW THAT THE PNA HAS AGREED TO DROP ITS DEMAND FOR CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ISLAMA 06147 02 OF 02 151302Z

AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT, IT WILL WANT THE ELECTION HELD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AS MUFTI HAS INDICATED.

7. DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS AND JOURNALISTS IN ISLAMABAD ARE OF TWO MINDS ASSESSING THE NEGOTIATIONS. SOME BELIEVE THE TWO SIDES ARE NEAR A FINAL AGREEMENT, WHILE OTHERS ARE MORE SKEPTICAL AND ASSERT THAT A GREAT DEAL REMAINS TO BE DECIDED. THE RENEWED SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY OF THE SAUDI AMBASSADOR SUGGESTS THAT ALL IS NOT WELL, COMPELLING THE SAUDIS TO APPLY MORE PRESSURE ON BOTH SIDES. STATEMENTS BY THE VARIOUS PNA LEADERS INVOLVED IN THE TALKS ARE CONSIDERABLY LESS OPTIMISTIC THAN THOSE OF THE GOVERNMENT, ANOTHER SIGN THAT KEY DIFFERENCES REMAIN.

8. DESPITE HEADLINES IN THE PRESS THAT A PACKAGE DEAL MAY BE REACHED ON JUNE 15, THE PNA APPEARS CONCERNED THAT BHUTTO IS TRYING TO RUSH THEM INTO AN AGREEMENT WITHOUT ADEQUATE GUARANTEES REGARDING THE CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS NOW THAT THEY HAVE AGREED NOT TO PRESS FOR AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT WITH THEIR PARTICIPATION. MOST OBSERVERS AGREE THAT IF A SETTLEMENT IS ANNOUNCED TOMORROW, IT WILL BE MORE A RESULT OF THE PM'S BELIEF THAT ELECTIONS ARE INEVITABLE AND HE HAS NO CHOICE NOW BUT TO ACQUIESCE - BECAUSE OF CONCERNS ABOUT LAW AND ORDER AND PRESSURES FROM THE MILITARY AND THE SAUDIS - RATHER THAN BOTH SIDES FINDING A LOGICAL AND REASONABLE COMPROMISE. NOT KNOWING BHUTTO'S PERSONAL ASSESSMENT OF HIS POLITICAL POSITION, IT IS THEREFORE DIFFICULT TO PREDICT IF THE TALKS WILL END SUCCESSFULLY. CONSTABLE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OPPOSITION PARTIES, NEGOTIATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ISLAMA06147
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770213-0799
Format: TEL
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770655/aaaabwec.tel
Line Count: 206
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3f26777c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ISLAMABAD 6108
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2146356
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL SITUATION: NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE
TAGS: PINT, PK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3f26777c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009